

Response to Comments Made By
Taxpayers for Salmon Preservation
Letter dated November 25, 1992

Comment #1

The draft Environmental Assessment (EA) addresses only the proposed pilot pumping plant. If built as planned, it may provide not only biological information but engineering and technical data as well. This data is independent and distinct from data that will be forthcoming from additional studies currently being conducted or planned as part of the long term fish passage study. Depending on the outcome of the project and the information obtained from it, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) may elect to utilize the pilot pumping plant in its entirety, or parts of it, for the long term fish passage program.

Reference was also made in your letter to several options and improvements such as altering the fish ladders, or installing fish counting systems that have not been properly evaluated and reported. Your comments alluded to the need to pursue these or any other programs to preserve salmon. We appreciate your comments and believe a number of these activities to be part of the long-term study currently underway, and thus outside the scope of this EA.

Comment #2

The pilot pumping plant is proposed to be a temporary test facility. The assumption that it is a permanent facility is incorrect. Fish passage at the RBDD has been identified as a major problem. We expect that the PPP will result in benefits that more than offset initial costs involved and will demonstrate the validity of the use of a pumping plant to solve the long term fish passage problem.

Comments also included a statement that the EA was inadequate as an environmental impact study. Reclamation, in keeping with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, has determined that an EA is the appropriate document for the proposed action. Additionally, the EA covers only the stated project as proposed, and is not intended to take the place of an environmental impact study which may be required for other actions such as those proposed for the Red Bluff Fish Passage Study.

Comment #3

The EA does not, as pointed out in your letter, include predation studies. Such studies are still being developed or are in various stages of evaluation at this time. Reference was made in the draft EA to a proposed biological evaluation study. This paper discusses some of the concerns raised and portions of it include assessments to be made of the predation problem, immediately downstream of the dam.